

2/22/2007

TO:

City Council

City and County of Honolulu

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Fax# 527-5733

From:

Caron M. Wilberts

733 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Ph#223-0958

FAXING TESTIMONY FOR CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON 02/23/2007.

I AM SUBMITTING TESTIMONY FOR AND AGAINST SEVERAL BILLS & RESOLUTIONS.

CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

FEB 23 7 55 AM '07

RECEIVED

BILL 011 (2007)-The purpose of this ordinance is to provide a one-time real property tax credit to eligible owners of real property.

I would like to please urge the Council to pass this bill. The tax credit of \$200.00 would greatly help the elderly and the working poor like myself. Over the last several years I have seen our property tax escalate well over 300% and any monetary credit would help tremendously. Please help the people of Honolulu by once again passing this bill.

RESOLUTION 07-045-INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS.

I would like to please urge the City Council to please pass this resolution. This is finally a fair compromise to what has been happening to the property tax increases over the recent years. In Section 6-203. Powers, Duties and Functions—Item U "Annually assess or cause to be assessed all real property situated within the geographic boundary of the City and County of Honolulu for taxation purposes, provided that any increase in gross valuations for any property included in either the improved residential or apartment class of real property shall be no more than 2 percent per year".

This is fair, no more than 2% per year is a reasonable amount to increase. For most of Honolulu's home owners have seen their property tax go well over 20 to 40% each year, and that is just unacceptable. I know that I speak for all the elderly and the working poor in my area who cannot speak for themselves, we urge you to pass this resolution for this is fair.

BILL 017 (2007)-The purpose of this ordinance is to modify the assessment of real property tax purposes to bring tax relief to homeowners.

If the above mentioned RESOLUTION 07-045 is passed then this bill would not be needed. But if the above mentioned Resolution is not passed then I am against the increase schedule as written.

I would like to urge the City Council to make the change to read in Sec.8-7 Assessment Cap. to Eliminate under (a) 1 thru 4 and make 5 read as follows, "For property owned by the same title holders for up to 20 years, the assessment shall be no more than two percent". Then also adjust 6 and 7 to reflect the same verbage.

Under Sec.8-7 (b) (2) Real property that is sold or transferred. The definition of transferred is not clear, if this will exclude children who's parents have their property in a trust, if this will exclude them from benefiting from this, then that section needs to be revised. Because on the passage of my mother the property will be "transferred" to me and I would like to be able to benefit from this.

BILL 022 (2007) The purpose of this ordinance is to revise the real property tax classifications.

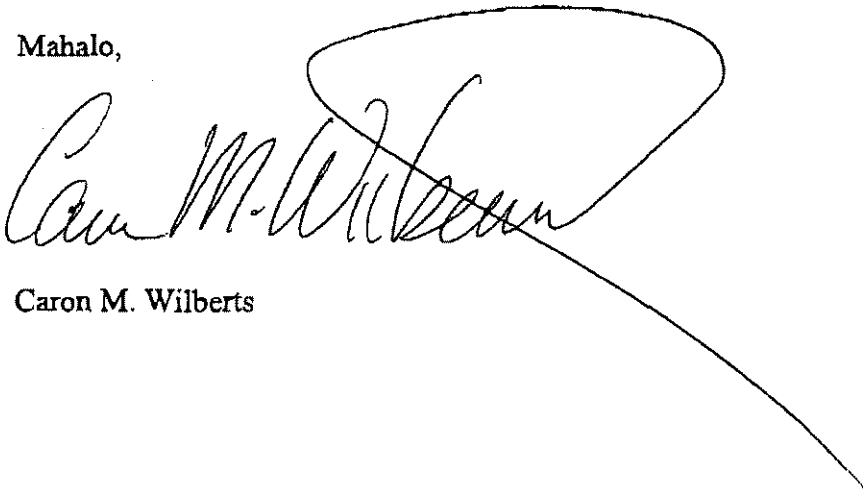
Under Section 2 I would like to recommend to the City Council to add two new classifications:

(K) Vacation Improved Residential-non resident property owners who do not live here for more than 8 months out of the year. Their tax rate should be the unimproved residential property tax rate. If this classification was in effect there would not be the feeding frenzy of wealthy mainland and international money that has brought about the tremendous shortage of affordable housing for our resident property owners. If they can afford to buy a second home they can afford to pay a higher tax rate.

(L) Speculator Improved Residential-There should be a limit on how many homes you can buy and sell each year. There could be a limit set at 3 Improved Residential properties sold within a one year period. From the fourth home on then that and any other properties will be charged the unimproved residential property tax rate. I and others believe that if there was such a classification in place you would see the speculation buying and selling of property drastically decline and then maybe the real residents of Hawaii might have a chance to acquire a home.

I thank you all for your time, and I would like to urge to really consider my suggestions and to do what is right to help the people of Honolulu.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caron M. Wilberts". The signature is written in a cursive style. A large, loopy flourish extends from the end of the signature, looping back up and over the top of the signature.

Caron M. Wilberts